

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 6, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 1, 3 to 5 and 7 to 11, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus which supplies a sheet to be recorded by recording means, said apparatus comprising:

a first stacking portion that stacks sheets therein;

a second stacking portion that stacks sheets therein, said second stacking portion arranged detachable from and attachable to said first stacking portion, and said second stacking portion including a base member for mounting to said first stacking portion and a tray arranged in a movable manner to the base member via a guide groove, for supporting a sheet as stacked; and

a supplying roller that supplies the sheet ~~towards said recording means, said supplying roller in contact with a recording surface of said recording means of the sheet stacked on said first stacking portion, or a recording surface of said recording means of the sheet stacked on said second staking portion,~~ toward said recording means,

wherein when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, said supplying roller is rotated in a first direction to supply the sheet stacked on said first stacking portion, while when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, the supplying roller is rotated in the first direction to supply the sheet stacked on said second stacking portion, said supplying roller supplying the sheet stacked on the first stacking portion when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along

~~the guide groove, and supplying the sheet stacked on the second stacking portion when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction along the guide groove.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the tray moves downstream, said second stacking portion is locked so that said second stacking portion can not be released from said first stacking portion, and when the tray moves upstream, said second stacking portion is detachable/attachable from and to the first stacking portion.

3. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second stacking portion includes a blocking lever ~~sheet supplying route blocking means~~ capable of abutting on and separating from an end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction so as to block a sheet supplying route to said supplying roller from said second stacking portion.

4. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said ~~sheet supplying route blocking lever~~ means abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction when ~~in a retreat position~~ the tray moves upstream, separates from the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction when the tray moves downstream ~~in the possible-of-supplying position~~, and opens a sheet supplying route to said supplying roller from said second stacking portion when a sheet on said second stacking portion is supplied by said supplying roller.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the tray moves downstream in a possible of supplying position, an abutting portion of said ~~sheet supplying route~~ blocking lever means, which abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, separates from an abutting portion of said first stacking portion, which abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, and

when said supplying roller supplies the sheet on said second stacking portion, an operation of said ~~sheet supplying route~~ blocking lever means is regulated by a regulating portion provided on said first stacking portion, thereby opening the sheet supplying route from said second stacking portion.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the abutting portion of said ~~sheet supplying route~~ blocking lever means, which abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, includes a guide means member for guiding respectively upper and lower sides, in the sheet stacking direction, of a sheet stacked on said second stacking portion when the tray moves upstream in a retreat position, towards the inside of the abutting portion of said ~~sheet supplying route~~ blocking lever means.

8. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said guide means member is configured in a shape protruding on the upstream side at least in the sheet supplying direction at the upper and lower portions, in the sheet stacking direction, of the abutting portion of said ~~sheet supplying route~~ blocking lever means.

9. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said base member of said second stacking portion includes a cover member means for covering the surface of a sheet stacked on said second stacking portion when the tray moves upstream in a retreat position, and

said cover member means serves as regulating means for regulating the upper side of a sheet in the sheet stacking direction within an abutting range on the abutting portion of said ~~sheet supplying route~~ blocking lever means.

10. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover means member separates from said second stacking portion when the tray moves downstream in a possible-of-supplying position.

11. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said second stacking portion includes a regulating member means for regulating the lower side of the sheet in the sheet stacking direction, and

said regulating means member is provided in the vicinity of said sheet supplying route blocking lever means and is overlapped with said guide means member of said sheet supplying route blocking lever means in the sheet supplying direction.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a sheet type discriminating sensor for discriminating a type of sheet stacked in said first stacking portion or said second stacking portion, and a position detecting sensor for detecting a position of said second stacking portion, wherein

the sheet supplied is identified based on a discrimination result by said discriminating sensor and a detection result by said position detecting sensor.

14. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said base member of said second stacking portion is provided with an index at a portion in which the end portion of the sheet is positioned when stacking a sheet on said first stacking portion.

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second stacking portion is provided with a cover member that opens and closes when taking the

sheet in and out and a sub cover member interlocking with the opening/closing of said cover member, on the upstream side of said second stacking portion in the sheet supplying direction.

19-32. (Cancelled)